

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1964
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2004
SCHEME FOR DEVELOPMENT OF BACKWARD STATES
Mohale Shri Punnulal

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any specific scheme for the development of backward States of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN)

(a) & (b): The Finance Minister in his Budget Speech for 2004-05 has announced that the Backward States Grant Fund with a corpus of Rs.25000 crore to be provided over a period of five years will be set up for taking up social and physical infrastructure programmes in the poorest and most backward districts in the country within a given time frame. The Fund will become operational from the financial year 2005-06.

(c): Does not arise.